



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Health Services

At its meeting held September 21, 2004, the Board took the following action:

32

The following was called up for consideration:

The Director of Health Services' attached recommendation to approve and authorize the Director or his designee to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the County related to King/Drew Medical Center, effective upon execution by all parties through September 30, 2005; and instruct the Director to take the steps necessary to relinquish King/Drew Medical Center's trauma designation, including noticing of the requisite Beilenson Hearing.

Supervisor Burke's recommendation that the Board delay its vote on the closure of King/Drew Medical Center's trauma center until such time as the outside consultant has had the opportunity to evaluate the hospital's operations and make an independent determination that closure of the trauma center is the appropriate action to take; and that the Board instruct the Director of Health Services to work with the outside consultant to identify other services or areas that can be restructured at King/Drew Medical Center.

Dr. Thomas L. Garthwaite, Director, Fred Leaf, Chief Operating Officer, and Carol Meyer, Director, Emergency Medical Services Agency, Department of Health Services; James Lott, Executive Vice President, Hospital Association of California; Speaker of the Assembly Fabian Nunez; Assemblymembers Herb Wesson, Jr., Mervyn M. Dymally and Jackie Goldberg; Senators Gilbert Cedillo and Richard Alarcon; former Los Angeles City Councilmember Nate Holden; Los Angeles City Councilmember Janice Hahn; Compton Councilmember Isadore Hall; Long Beach Councilmember Laura Richardson; Kristine Guerrero representing Senator Gloria Romero read a letter into the record; Annelle Grajeda, General Manager, Lethester Wilson, R.N. and Alia Khan-Hudson, SEIU Local 660; Dr. Vikki Cabbellero Hufnagel and other interested persons addressed the Board.

(Continued on Page 2)

32 (Continued)

After discussion, Supervisor Yaroslavsky made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Molina, that the Board take the following actions:

1. Approve and authorize the Director of Health Services or his designee to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the County of Los Angeles related to King/Drew Medical Center, effective upon execution by all parties through September 30, 2005; and
2. Instruct the Director of Health Services to notice a Beilenson hearing for the Board to consider the Director of Health Services' recommendation to relinquish the trauma designation at King/Drew Medical Center.

Supervisor Molina made a suggestion that Supervisor Yaroslavsky's motion be amended to indicate that the Beilenson hearing will be held in the community near King/Drew Medical Center. Supervisor Yaroslavsky accepted Supervisor Molina's amendment.

The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisor Burke:

"Closing the trauma center at King/Drew Medical Center may not be the most appropriate response to the problems facing the hospital.

"Since the Department of Health Services, as a condition of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), will be hiring an outside expert to assess and restructure the hospital, one of the first tasks of this consultant should be to evaluate this decision and determine whether it is indeed the correct thing to do.

"Perhaps there are other clinical areas that can be evaluated that may have a less dramatic impact on the hospital and community than closing the trauma center. We need to have the expert consultant assess this."

Therefore, Supervisor Burke made a substitute motion that the Board:

1. Delay its vote on the closure of King/Drew Medical Center's trauma center until such time as the outside consultant has had the opportunity to evaluate the hospital's operations and make an independent determination that closure of the trauma center is the appropriate action to take; and

(Continued on Page 3)

32 (Continued)

2. Instruct the Director of Health Services to work with the outside consultant to identify other services or areas that can be restructured at King/Drew Medical Center.

Supervisor Burke's motion failed for lack of a second.

Supervisor Burke requested a division of the question on Supervisor Yaroslavsky's original motion as amended by Supervisor Molina:

Duly carried by the following vote: Ayes: Supervisors Burke, Yaroslavsky, Antonovich and Molina; Noes: None (Supervisor Knabe being absent), the Board approved and authorized the Director of Health Services or his designee to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the County of Los Angeles related to King/Drew Medical Center, effective upon execution by all parties through September 30, 2005.

Duly carried by the following vote: Ayes: Supervisors Yaroslavsky, Antonovich and Molina; Noes: Supervisor Burke (Supervisor Knabe being absent), the Board instructed the Director of Health Services to notice a Beilenson hearing, to be held in the community, for the Board to consider the Director of Health Services' recommendation to relinquish the trauma designation at King/Drew Medical Center.

Attachment

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Copies distributed:
Each Supervisor
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel